

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 6-7, 11 and 12 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 6-9 and 11 are rejected by Examiner.
- Claims 8-10 are cancelled by Applicant.
- Claim 12 is newly added by Applicant.

Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for identifying the allowable subject matter of Claim 10. Applicant amends independent Claims 6 and 11 to include the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 10. Independent Claim 12 is added and also includes subject matter of Claim 10.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to for including reference designators for items 2 and 3 which are not described in the specification. The drawings are also objected to for describing table 1 and table 3 in the specification but table 1 and table 3 are not represented in the drawing.

Applicant amends the Specification to refer to item 2 and item 3 as designated in the as-filed drawing of Figure 1. Applicant also amends the specification to remove the terms "table 1" and "table 3" from the specification. The Specification now refers to item 2 and item 3.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings based on the amendments to the Specification.

Amendments to the Specification

The Abstract of the Specification is objected to for referring to Figure 1. However, Applicant can find no reference to Figure 1 in the Preliminary Amendment, received by the USPTO on 6/20/2005, which revised the Abstract. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully overcomes the objection.

The Specification is objected to for informalities regarding the use of acronyms. Applicant amends the Specification per Examiners' suggestion.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the Specification based on the specification amendments herein.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6, 7, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for reciting elements without antecedent basis. Claim 11 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite.

Applicant amends Claims 6, 7, and 11 to provide antecedent basis. Applicant amends Claim 11 to more closely comport with US claim drafting standards.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 6, 7, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by over U.S. Patent No. 4,538,147 to Grow. Applicant traverses the rejection via amendment.

Claim 6 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 10 which includes the aspects that the master node constructs a first table that stores, for each node of the network, information indicative of the fraction of bandwidth reserved for each node and, on the basis of the first table, the master node constructs a second table storing the sequence defining the order of passage of the token between the nodes of the network. Dependent Claims 8-10 are cancelled.

Claim 11 is amended to include allowable subject matter aspects that were identified in now-cancelled Claim 10.

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Since Grow does not discuss the allowable subject matter aspects included in amended independent Claims 6 and 11, then amended Claims 6, 7, and 11 are not anticipated by Grow. Applicant respectfully requests withdraw of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of pending Claims 6, 7, and 11 because they patentably define over the cited art.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,538,147 to Grow in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,221 to Szkopek et al. (Szkopek).

Claims 8-9 are cancelled by Applicant.

Added Claim

Claim 12 is newly added and is directed to a communication device including a connection as a node to the digital bus communication network, a table received from a master node of the network, and aspects of the allowable subject matter of now-cancelled Claim 10. Applicant respectfully requests examination of new Claim 12.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims patentably define over the cited art and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections of the pending claims. In addition, since the pending claims patentably define over the cited art, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832 therefore.

Respectfully submitted,
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